

**Lempster School District**  
**School Board Meeting~Tuesday, January 2, 2024**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Lempster Community School Library**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Present-Board members:** Kelly Caron, Rachel Tirrell, Jessica Hooper and Bruce Cragin  
**Superintendent/Director of Student Services:** Jim Lewis  
**Absent Principal:** Ralph Peterson  
**Absent board member:** Jillian Thomas

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm by Ms. Caron, chair.

**K. Caron**

**Agenda Adjustments**

No adjustments

**K. Caron**

**Review of minutes from (12.5.23)**

*Rachel Tirrell made a motion to accept the minutes of 12.5.23, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor, with Kelly Caron abstaining.*

**Board**

**Review of nonpublic minutes from (12.5.23)**

*Jessica Hooper made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes of 12.5.23, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor, with Kelly Caron abstaining.*

**Board**

Guests: Mr. Derek Tremblay and Lisa Sweet from Mount Royal Academy

Mr. Lewis introduced our guests and Mr. Tremblay described the school, where he has been since 2009. Ms. Sweet has been at the school for 5 years.

Mount Royal Academy is a classical catholic education, predicated on partnership with parents. You don't have to be catholic to attend school there. The school was founded as an independent catholic school with no direct affiliation with the diocese. They employ up to 30 staff members with a school population of 195 students, elementary through high school. They do not have special education, as they do not receive Title I funds, but they work closely with the Sunapee District for those services. They currently have 141 alumni. They offer art, sports, theater, and music, but do not offer technology.

The board then asked questions of Mr. Tremblay and Ms. Sweet.

They use the Math in Focus program for elementary.  
88% of the graduating students attend college.  
Class size averages 15.

Ms. Caron asked about their procedure with special needs students. Ms. Sweet answered that they have a close working relationship with Sunapee School District. She went on to explain the formula of IEP/ISP's and the private versus public school funding of special education services in a district.

Ms. Tirrell asked what would happen if you had a student who you could not provide services for? Mr. Tremblay answered that they would make every effort to find services for that student. They don't always have speech or occupational therapy services, but they always try to find those services. Occasionally, they can find a private foundation to help with that. It is conceivable that they may be unable to accept a student with special needs.

Ms. Caron asked about the costs surrounding sports, uniforms, sports fee, and fundraising. They answered that the approximate cost would be \$1000.

Mr. Caron also asked who would be signing a contract to attend their school, the parent, district? Mr. Tremblay answered that it varies, but always there is a contract between the parent and the school.

Mr. Lewis asked about tuition fees and what if a parent could not pay? Some families may use Education Freedom accounts, and the district can make up the difference, it varies.

Mr. Cragin asked about teacher certification. Mr. Tremblay addressed that and mentioned that they have an internal process

Mr. Cragin also asked about library services. Ms. Sweet stated there are books to be found, but there is no dedicated library space, but all students get a library membership to the Sunapee Town Library.

**Public comment:** Amy Murrery (1st grade teacher), Selena Liete, Jennifer Gildner-Blinn (art teacher) were present.

Ms. Liete suggested that we renew the IXL math program, as it is helpful for her student and allows practice and parental support. She also mentioned Thinkwave and that assignments were previously shared there and that no longer happens. It appears that now the program is typing club and it isn't as useful as the previous program.

She inquired about school board meeting minutes and agendas being posted timely, somewhere online.

Mr. Lewis answered that Mr. McNicholas is currently working on having that information on the new website so that current and (recent) past minutes can be found easily.

The broken playground slide was also addressed, Mr. Lewis updated her on the progress, and Ms. Leite has volunteered to help with that project.

She also inquired about being able to view the solar tracking costs and energy output information once that is online. Mr. Lewis stated that as it is public information, that is the plan.

### **Administrative reports**

**J. Lewis**

Webpage-

Mr. Lewis provided a hands-on demonstration of the Christmas Concert, now found on the school webpage.

Christmas Concert-

The board mentioned that there was lots of background noise (mostly by adults) and offered suggestions for next time.

Negotiations

**K. Caron, J. Hooper, J. Lewis**

The next negotiation meeting will take place tomorrow, January 3, 2024.

**Policies****Policy Committee**

First readings of policies JLCF & BBAA

**Solar****J. Lewis**

The inverter has been delivered and the workers will be here this Thursday and Friday and then the inspection will happen.

**Monthly Building Needs Update****J. Lewis**

Entrance door-

Each staff member will get a key card or code to get in and the workers will be here this week to finish up. Also the cameras have been updated and Mr. Lewis can direct connect to them on his cell phone.

Water quality testing-

When the last testing was performed (July 2023) there was a minute amount of lead in the samples. The results are posted and the water has been retested and results should be in soon.

**Finances****J. Lewis**

The manifests were reviewed and signed by the board

Proposed 2024-2025 Budget-

Mr. Lewis described some history of academics and emotional wellbeing and how we found solutions using ESSER grant funds and how the budget will need to change to adapt to these changes. He described some of the recommended cuts and has prepared a powerpoint to illustrate the cuts.

Suggested warrant Articles are 50k for Special Education Services and 50k for building needs.

**Agenda Building****K. Caron**

Mt. Royal update, para contract, budget presentation, solar

**Time and Place of next meeting****K. Caron**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 with the board meeting to start at 5pm and the Public Budget hearing to start at 6:30pm

**Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II****J. Lewis**

*Jessica Hooper made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 11c at 6:30pm, second by Bruce Cragin. Roll call; Kelly-yes, Bruce-yes, Rachel-yes, Jessica-yes*

**Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichty  
Board Secretary

